

BOROUGH OF ST. IVES (HUNTS)



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR 1964

1964

Mayor:

Councillor K. M. C. BARTON

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

J. CALDWELL,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. G. REESON,
F.I.A.S., M.I.P.H.E., M.B.I., C.S.I.B.,
M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

A. G. WILLIAMS,
M.A.P.H.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	2,326 acres
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£205,690
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£868
Number of inhabited houses (approx.)	...	...	...	...	...	1,552
Population	...	...	...	...	...	4,700

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Saint Ives
(Hunts.) for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

To:-

Mr. Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the Borough of
Saint Ives (Hunts.).

Your Worship and Members of the Council,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

Vital Statistics.

Population. The rise of over 200 which occurred in 1964 has been the average increase which has taken place during the last few years and since 1959 more than 1,000 persons have been added to the population.

The Area Comparability Factors for use with the crude birth and deaths rates contain adjustments for boundary changes and make allowances for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death rate area comparability factor has been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in the area. When local crude birth and death rates are multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The Birth Rate, although showing a slight fall compared with last year, is still well above the average for the Country generally.

The Death Rate. After last year's abnormally dramatic rise in the death rate the figure for this year fell by more than 50% and is now again well below the national average.

An examination of the facts reveals that more than 55% of the deaths occurred in persons of 75 years or over and that almost 70% occurred in persons over 65 years of age. 63% of the deaths were due to disease of the cardio-vascular system and 14% were due to cancer.

Infant Mortality. Only one infant under 1 year died during the year as compared with 4 who died during 1963. The infant mortality rate, therefore, fell dramatically to a

level which is less than half the national figure. Such a "swing back" from last year's figures was to be expected statistically as such relatively small numbers are involved.

Infectious Disease. 1964 was a year in which notifiable infectious disease ran at a fairly low level and no serious outbreaks occurred. Two-thirds of the notifications were in respect of measles which made its appearance towards the end of February.

Social Conditions.

Housing. The demand for rented accommodation continued during 1964 and the Council, in order to partially relieve the need, commenced the erection of 49 dwellings in the town. The provision of these homes will also help to cater for those people living in substandard conditions who are not in a position to buy their own property.

Council house maintenance is constantly under review and regular attention is paid to council property to ensure that it is well kept.

The only caravan site in the Borough is satisfactorily maintained. There are 48 caravans on the site with a resident attendant who controls to some extent the running of the establishment. During the year there was no reason to take any action under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Water Supply. Despite the ever increasing demand the water supply of the town has been kept at a satisfactory level of quantity and quality by the Cambridge Water Co. who took over the supply and distribution on 1st April, 1963. This Company is aware of the development taking place in the north of the town and as further development proceeds the need is met.

Routine bacteriological sampling by the officers of the Cambridge Water Co. is carried out to ensure a wholesome mains supply and similar "check" samples are taken by the Public Health Staff of this council. Any unsatisfactory samples would be immediately notified to the water company and repeat samples taken. During the year no faulty samples were found.

Swimming Pools. The provision of Swimming Pool facilities in schools during the summer season is becoming a popular feature all over the County. The maintenance of these pools is the responsibility of the Local Education Authority but "check" samples may be taken by this

Council's officers and the reports thereof passed to the County Medical Officer of Health.

In conjunction with St. Ives Rural District Council, the provision of a large pool to cater for the whole area was proposed and consulting engineers produced a scheme which was approved. They were thereafter requested to produce the necessary documents for tendering purposes.

In view of the lack of adequate public swimming facilities in this area the provision of such a pool would be of great benefit to the people of the town and neighbourhood.

Sewers and Sewerage. During the year work commenced on the provision of the Sewerage and Sewage disposal scheme, permission for which was granted by the Ministry earlier in the year. By December, 1964, the work was progressing at a healthy pace and indeed was ahead of schedule at certain points.

This long-awaited scheme when completed will allow the Borough to develop and expand at a higher rate than has been possible in the past and will bring the standard of sanitation in the town up to a modern level.

Refuse. The refuse collection service is operated under contract with the neighbouring rural district council and has been satisfactorily carried out during the year.

Food. Frequent inspections of food premises are made by the Public Health Inspector to ensure that the proper standards of hygiene are adhered to and that the Food Hygiene Regulations are implemented.

Abattoir. The Slaughterhouse in Meadow Lane which came into operation in December, 1963, operated satisfactorily during the year with an increased 'throughput' which made it necessary to engage additional staff to cope with the situation. A large part of this increase was due to the number of lambs slaughtered for export to Switzerland and during the year consideration was given to extension of the premises.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Reeson and all other members of the staff for the assistance they have given me, and for all the work they have done during the year despite the relatively small establishment to carry out the duties entailed.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES CALDWELL.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1964

Estimated mid-year home population ... 4,700

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	69	46	115
Illegitimate	3	5	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	72	51	123
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			26.2
Birth Rate corrected by comparability factor (.93)			24.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			18.4

Still Births

Legitimate	—	—	Nil
Illegitimate	—	—	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	—	—	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births (England and Wales)			16.3

Deaths

	15	20	35
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			7.4
Death Rate corrected by comparability factor (1.06)			7.9
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)			11.3

Infant Mortality — Death of infants under 1 year.

Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live births) ...			8.1
Infant Mortality Rate (England and Wales)			20.0

Table classifying deaths under age groups

Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	—	—	—
4 weeks and under 1 year	1	—	1
1 and under 5 years	—	—	—
5 and under 15 years	—	—	—
15 and under 25 years	—	—	—
25 and under 35 years	—	—	—
35 and under 45 years	2	—	2
45 and under 55 years	2	3	5
55 and under 65 years	2	1	3
65 and under 75 years	2	3	5
75 years and over	6	13	19
Totals	15	20	35

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	1
16.	Diabetes	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	—	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina	7	3
20.	Other heart disease	2	3
21.	Other circulatory disease	—	3
22.	Influenza	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	2	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1
34.	All other accidents	—	1
Total all causes		15	20

The following table indicates the trend in population, birth and death rates for the Borough over the past 5 years:-

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Population	3860	4110	4320	4480	4700
Births					
Total live births	98	98	113	122	123
Crude birth rate	25.40	23.80	26.20	27.20	26.20
Area Comparability Factor	.97	.97	.94	.93	.93
Corrected birth rate	24.60	23.10	24.60	25.30	24.30
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	17.10	17.40	18.00	18.20	18.40
Deaths					
Total deaths	39	39	40	71	35
Crude death rate	10.10	9.90	9.30	15.80	7.40
Area comparability factor	.89	.93	1.04	1.06	1.06
Corrected death rate	9.00	9.30	9.60	16.80	7.90
Death rate (England and Wales)	11.50	12.00	11.90	12.20	11.30

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1964

	Total cases notified			
Scarlet Fever	7
Whooping Cough	11
Diphtheria	—
Measles	42
Acute Pneumonia	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Typhoid Fever	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—
Erysipelas	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Infective Hepatitis	—
Food Poisoning	1
Dysentery	—
Total				61

The only notified case of food poisoning occurred in a member of U.S.A.F. Alconbury where there was an outbreak in September.

The more serious notifiable infections continue to be conspicuous by their absence. Diphtheria has been practically eliminated and poliomyelitis very substantially reduced all over the country and it is many years since either of these conditions was reported in this area.

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register on 31st December, 1964 ... 20

Pulmonary ... 18

Non-pulmonary ... 2

AGE PERIODS				New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	I	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				I	O	I	O	I	O	O	O

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge (Tel.: Cambridge 55526).

Public Analyst, (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.),
Tenison Road, Cambridge (Tel.: Cambridge 2097).

(b) Ambulance Services

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel.: Huntingdon 348).

(c) Home Nursing

A Nurse/Midwife resident in Fenstanton (Tel.: St. Ives 3623) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases in the Borough.

(d) Clinic and treatment Centres

(i) The following services were provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren.	Every Monday 9 a.m.-12 noon. 1.30-4.30 p.m.	Ditto.
	Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services were provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Tuesdays, 3-6.30 p.m. Thursdays, 4-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males	Mondays, 4.30-6.30 p.m. Tuesdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Females and Children	Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 4.30-6.30 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	Every Thursday 10-12 noon (Surgeons by appointment) 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays in month (Sister) 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Health Clinic Nursery Road Huntingdon Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3 p.m.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

Medical Surgical, Orthopædic, Obstetrical, Pædiatric, Gynæcological, and Dental Out-patient clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services

Fever. Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment were admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity cases were admitted to Primrose Lane Hospital, Huntingdon and Mill Road Maternity Hospital, Cambridge.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1. Water Supplies.

The situation both as regards quantity and quality has been very satisfactory and the supply has been adequate to deal with the development. The Cambridge Water Company are taking steps to be in a position to cope with all the anticipated future development.

Work commenced during the year of the sinking of a new borehole in Hemingford Grey, which would provide an additional source of water to the Borough.

Seven samples were taken by the Departments during the year which were satisfactory. The results of the examination of samples taken by the Company were available for inspection by the Department.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Messrs. Kottler & Heron commenced work on the Sewage Disposal Scheme in the Autumn and made good progress. It is expected that the sewers should all be laid and the works completed with the exception of pumping machinery by the early spring of 1966.

It was found advisable to include two extensions to the Scheme.

3. Rivers and Streams.

Only minor works were carried out during the year.

4. Public Cleansing.

Many of the residents of the Borough consider that the refuse collection should now be from the back door and not kerbside. This was considered and not thought to be economical or practical at the present time.

Only very minor complaints were received which were dealt with immediately.

5. Swimming Pool.

Plans for a Swimming Pool and ancilliary buildings were submitted by the Consultants, and the Joint Committee instructed that details be prepared for approval and tenders.

6. Shops Acts.

No infringements were found during the year.

7. Caravans.

The caravan site was well maintained and run with a resident warden. No extension has yet been carried out but it is anticipated that this should take place in 1965.

8. Smoke Abatement.

No infringements were found during the year.

9. Bed Bugs.

No reports of infestation were received and no premises were found to be infested.

10. Rats and Mice Destruction.

101 properties have been inspected during the year and the Council properties were treated and cleared.

Material was supplied to residents who requested it for treating their own premises.

11. Petroleum Acts.

The number of licences issued during the year was as follows:-

Over 1,000 gallons	2
500 — 1,000 gallons	8
Under 500 gallons	10

12. Slaughterhouse.

The throughput at the Abattoir has increased during the year, and one additional slaughterman and an apprentice were engaged. The Council did also consider the possibility of extension of the cooling facilities.

13. Noise Abatement.

No complaints were made under the Noise Abatement Act.

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACTS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	10	28	Nil	Nil
(2) Section 7	39	60	Nil	Nil
Total	49	88	Nil	Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Abattoir Particulars.

	Beast	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1962	885	2	1,500	3,157	5,544
1963	945	11	1,194	3,032	5,182
1964	1,143	80	7,952	4,874	14,049

Meat Condemned at Abattoir.

	Beaf lbs.	Veal lbs.	Mutton lbs.	Pork lbs.	Total lbs.
1962	3,547	—	—	2,650	6,197
1963	4,246	—	—	2,001	6,247
1964	3,034	—	2,272½	3,565	8,871½

Meat and Abattoir.

The following table shows the number of animals killed, carcasses and offal inspected and condemned.

		Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	.. ..	1143	80	7952	4874
Number inspected	.. ..	1143	80	7952	4874
(All diseases except tuberculosis):—					
Whole carcasses condemned	.. ..	4	—	17	17
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	.. ..	140	—	428	216
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	.. ..	12.59	—	5.59	4 78
(Tuberculosis only):—					
Whole carcasses condemned	.. ..	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	.. ..	—	—	—	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.. ..	—	—	—	.51
Cysticercosis:—					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	.. ..	2	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	.. ..	2	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	.. ..	—	—	—	—

(b) Poultry Inspection.

Regular inspections were made at the local processing station and during the year, 2,920 carcasses were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

(c) Food Condemned.

	cwt.	st.	lb.	oz.
Cooked Ham	2	1	3	13
Corned Beef		5	4	10
Jellied Veal			4	0
Prunes			7	0
Frozen fish			92	packets
Frozen chicken			26	packets
Frozen cakes			11	packets
Frozen meat			60	packets
Frozen chips			19	packets
Frozen cheeseburgers			12	packets
Frozen vegetables			103	packets

(d) Liquid Egg.

One premises in the Borough did install a new pasteurising plant for pasteurising liquid egg. A laboratory was also set up on the premises for examination of the product.

Ten samples were taken by the Department all of which were found to be satisfactory.

(e) Milk.

Seven samples of milk were taken during course of delivery to consumer and all were found to be satisfactory.

(f) Ice Cream.

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	12
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	30

(g) Bakehouses.

There is only one bakehouse in the Borough which has been maintained satisfactorily.

Enquiries.

Following the outbreak of Typhoid in Edinburgh, all stocks of Corned Beef in the Borough were very carefully checked. One firm returned several tins back to the Wholesalers.

HOUSING

New Houses.

The number of new houses erected during the year was as follows:-

Council	Nil
Private	78

Overcrowding.

No cases of overcrowding were reported during the year.

Slum Clearance.

Number reported to be unfit for habitation	7
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed	3
Number of houses unfit where demolition orders were made	4

Grants.

3 applications were made for a Discretionary Grant for the improvement of houses of which 2 were approved.

J. G. REESON,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

